

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the consideration of the information in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Information Disclosure Statement:

It is noted that the Examiner inadvertently failed to put her signature by the reference in the U.S. Patent documents section, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 4,413,996. Accordingly, a new PTO form 1449 is submitted herewith identifying the reference. Since the Information Disclosure Statement was timely filed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the reference and return the Information Disclosure Statement to applicants' attorney, reflecting consideration of the reference.

35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the claims set forth the physical characteristics desired of the composition alone rather than the specific composition of the composite in the end product.

Although applicants disagree with the Examiner's analysis, for purposes of expediting prosecution, the claims have been amended to more clearly set forth the specific composition of the claimed subject matter.

Furthermore, applicants submit that the claimed absorbent article does include sufficient structure to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to determine whether or not the claim was infringed. Specifically, the absorbent structure is defined as a superabsorbent porous structure having a Gurley stiffness value lower

than 1000 mg. Such elements define structural characteristics of the claimed product. The Examiner's attention is also directed to U.S. Patent No. 5,009,653, which is relevant to this issue in that it defines a sanitary napkin as basically having an absorbent core, wherein the capacity of the core and the flexure resistance of the core is defined in the claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the original claims 1-11 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and should be allowed.

To further define the protection to which applicants are entitled, new claim 12 has been added. New claim 12 is substantially the same as claim 9, except that it depends from claim 8, instead of claim 7.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620